



Date: July 15, 2003  
Contact: Ann Boucher, 406-896-5011

### **Fire Conditions – Site Visit**

Members of the media are invited to visit a site near Columbus to learn about current fire conditions and interview land managers about fire danger and prevention.

Fire danger is very high in southern Montana. Stage 1 fire restrictions will go into effect on July 18 on most federal, state and private lands in Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, and Yellowstone counties beginning July 18, 2003. The restrictions do not apply to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness or the Gallatin National Forest.

**WHAT:** Site visit

**WHERE:** Meet in the county commissioners' office on the second floor of the Columbus County Courthouse, 400 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, Columbus. The group will carpool to the site which is a short distance from Columbus.

**WHEN:** July 17, 2003  
10 a.m.

**WHO:** The Billings Area Restrictions Group coordinates fire restrictions on federal, state and private land in the Billings area. It includes representatives from the Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the counties of Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, and Yellowstone.

**If you plan to attend, please contact Ann Boucher at 406-896-5011 no later than 3 pm on Wednesday, July 16.**

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